

INTRODUCTION

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Recipients of this document are cautioned that it contains some information from very sensitive and restricted sources and that it should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis. It cannot be shown to foreign nationals or disseminated outside the Continental United States.

This chronology of Soviet and other Bloc activity during the period of the Soviet military buildup in Cuba and the period of the Cuban crisis of the summer and fall of 1962 is designed to serve the following purposes: (a) to provide in readily usable chronological order a summary of the known activity undertaken by the USSR in Cuba and concurrently in other areas, and particularly the activity of the Soviet Bloc armed forces during the period; (b) to highlight, by placing the known developments in time sequence in relation with one another, those periods of Soviet military activity which appear to have been most significant in bringing the Soviet military forces to a state of readiness and which may therefore be the most productive for further collection and research for warning purposes; and (c) to serve as a detailed supplement for an accompanying document which will discuss the more significant aspects of Soviet military activities during this period from the standpoint of their possible indications and warning significance.

This study is of necessity a preliminary compilation of the material; it is based largely, particularly with regard to Soviet military activity, on the information reported currently during the period. Such additional information as was received up to early June 1963 has been included, but to date relatively little additional information has been obtained and there has been little further detailed study or reanalysis of Soviet preparedness measures, particularly during the period prior to 22 October. It is hoped that this compilation will be useful in encouraging such collection and research, since it appears almost certain that further information and analysis will provide additional insight into Soviet military planning, doctrine, alerting procedures and deception measures for possible hostilities.

All crises in which the USSR is or may potentially become involved are of value for the study of indications and warning intelligence. There have been a number of these since World War II, all of which provide some insight into the manner in which the USSR alerts or prepares its military forces. There have been only two, however, which were so serious as to involve an actual or potential commitment of Soviet forces in hostilities (except for the Soviet air participation in the Korean War). The first was the Polish-Hungarian crisis of October-November 1956, which involved a sudden and unplanned commitment of Soviet ground forces in Hungary (under lax security conditions) and preparations for such action against Poland; the second was the Cuban crisis. The latter was potentially the more serious, since it involved a risk of direct hostilities between Soviet and US forces (at least in Cuba) and thus a far greater danger of escalation. It is also significantly different in that the USSR had ample time to prepare its forces for the crisis so that it would not be caught by surprise, and to insure maximum secrecy and deception measures.

Even this preliminary compilation of available evidence strongly points to the month of September as of at least equal and possibly greater significance for warning analysis than the period of the "crisis" itself. In particular, the period of approximately 8-20 September, which coincided with the first deliveries of MRBMs to Cuba and the Soviet announcement that its forces were being brought to "highest combat readiness," is believed the most likely period for Soviet preparedness measures.

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This chronology covers the period from 1 July 1962 to 23 November 1962. The initial date was selected because it marked the start of the heavy Soviet military shipments to Cuba. However, Soviet preparations of course began considerably earlier, and the decision to undertake the Cuban venture almost certainly had been made by April. Therefore, certain earlier activity is probably relevant to the buildup although it has not been included here.

Since this study is directed to Soviet and secondarily Satellite preparedness measures rather than to Cuba itself, the developments relating to Cuba have been relatively briefly noted, with the exception of the 22-31 October period when considerably more detail has been included.

Because all US and many other Western Intelligence collection facilities were on alert and every scrap of available information was promptly reported during the period beginning 22 October, the volume of material included for this period on the preparedness measures of the Bloc armed forces is almost certainly disproportionately large in relation to the earlier period. Had a similar intelligence alert been in effect earlier, it is possible that more information would have been currently available.

Items dealing with the USSR and Satellites were selected generally to include significant training activity; unusual mobility, or movements of military forces; reports or indications of possible alerts or other unusual readiness measures; unusual security measures or travel restrictions; communications abnormalities, including those which are unexplained; movements of key Soviet military personnel; Soviet diplomatic and political activity; particularly in relation to Berlin and Germany; diplomatic and military activity in other areas possibly intended for diversionary or cover purposes; political deception measures; propaganda, particularly that relating to Cuba and Berlin; Soviet press statements relating to readiness measures and deterrent capabilities of the Soviet armed forces; civilian activity where it appeared to bear some possible relation to the problem, such as movements of key civilian leaders and civil defense; and generally any other items which appeared unusual, possibly relevant or of unexplained significance. Where there is doubt, items have been included rather than omitted. Therefore, inclusion of an item does not necessarily constitute a judgment that it bore any specific relation to the crisis or to increased readiness of Bloc forces. Indeed, many military activities noted probably did constitute relatively "normal" training and would have occurred in any case.

All items are entered under the date on which the action occurred, rather than when it was reported. In most cases, the information was obtained relatively promptly after the event, but in some cases there was a considerable delay. In a few instances in which the information was obtained long after the event, this has been noted. In addition, the dating of a number of items relating to the deliveries to Cuba has been based primarily on a restudy of available material after the crisis rather than on current reporting. Thus, the information reported for any date or period in this study is actually more than was available at the time. A few items which cannot be specifically dated have been included at the end of the chronology.

This document has been compiled entirely by the National Indications Center and has not been coordinated with other agencies. Items have been checked for accuracy against current reporting and publications, but there is a possibility that certain items have been found erroneous on the basis of further information which has not been available to the National Indications Center.

Collateral reports are generally from reliable or eye-witness sources; in cases where the source is of uncertain or dubious reliability, the nature of the source has usually been indicated. A few items, particularly relating to some US actions, have been taken from press sources and are so indicated.

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JULY 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED]

11 Jul: Khrushchev, in a statement carried by Pravda, attacked McNamara's statements that the balance of forces favored the US; the military balance of power would be determined in the course of war and by its outcome; the US was not justified in trying to apply a "position of strength" policy in dealing with the Soviet Union.

12 Jul: A TASS statement on Berlin said that the Western powers were "not displaying an understanding for the need to do away with the vestiges of World War II by signing a German peace treaty." Citing US rejection of Khrushchev's proposals for NATO-Warsaw Pact visits in West Berlin, it declared that the Soviet Union, with other peace-loving states, "will have to solve the question of signing a German peace treaty...without the participation of the Western powers." Khrushchev, in a talk with US journalists 13 July, set no time limit and indicated the USSR would continue the talks.

9-20 7.11 The Western Military Liaison Missions were restricted from almost all of East Germany (nine separate areas), for an apparent two-phase CI X.

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JULY 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (2)

[REDACTED] Ivestiya stated that the talks on Berlin had reached a "crucial stage."

16-20 Jul: Khrushchev, Molotov and Admiral Gorshkov visited the northern USSR, where Khrushchev inspected the Northern Fleet, observed missile launches from submerged submarines and decorated the crew of a Soviet atomic submarine, according to TASS. (During July, a Soviet Northern Fleet nuclear submarine returned from a "special government mission" involving extended and involved accurate navigation, apparently under ice in northern waters, for which its crew received awards.)

The USSR announced that it had given the order to resume nuclear testing.

21-24 Jul: Soviet Foreign Minister Gramyka and Secretary of State Rusk met in Geneva for extended discussions.

23 Jul: The Soviets announced that a large area in the Barents/Kara Seas would be closed 5 August - 20 October and that in August-October, the Northern Fleet with rocket and gun forces would hold exercises in the use of various types of modern arms in the area [an announcement in effect of planned nuclear tests in the area]

23 Jul: Pravda stated that the "provocative activity" from West Berlin required the "immediate" signing of a peace treaty. The continuing intractability of the Soviet position, particularly the requirement for Western troop withdrawal from West Berlin, suggested that Moscow was increasingly pessimistic about achieving a

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JULY 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (3)

23 Jul: (Cont'd) negotiated Berlin settlement and might be considering other means of reaching its objectives.

[REDACTED]

25 Jul: The CINC, GSFG, protested to General Freeman on alleged US violations of the air corridors and US helicopter flights over East Berlin, implying that such matters should be dealt with at the CINC rather than the commandant level.

26 Jul: Red Star carried an article indicating that amphibious exercises were in progress in the Odessa Military District or had been completed there.

[REDACTED]

27 Jul: Khrushchev left Moscow on an extended working vacation on the Black Sea, returning to Moscow on 18 August, again departing for the Black Sea on 21 August, and returning finally to Moscow on 15 September.

28 Jul: Izvestiya strongly reaffirmed Moscow's intention to sign a peace treaty with East Germany which would "not be a mere formality" and would require the West to deal with the East Germans on the question of access; however, there was no mention of a deadline.

27 Jul -
5 Aug: Turkish couriers were denied transit of Batumi and Leninakan on the grounds that transport was sold out. Western attaches were denied visits to Sevastopol for Soviet Navy Day (29 July).

30 Jul: The Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Rostov-on-Don was quarantined to all visitors until 1 September for unexplained health reasons, and Intourist indicated the restriction had already been in effect for two or three weeks. The closure at the time was believed related to the apparent serious riot in the Rostov-Novocherkassk area about 1 June.

Late Jul: Observations indicated that there had been a change of the Soviet vehicle registration numbering system in the USSR, Hungary and Poland, but not in GSFG.

[REDACTED]

JULY 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (4)

[REDACTED]

31 Jul: [REDACTED] USAREUR reported that ECM equipment had been installed at Heinerdorf and Treptow towers in East Berlin (Mound Brick, Cheese Brick, Dome Brick) which could interfere with corridor traffic. [REDACTED]

Jul: In Indonesia, preparations continued for an attack on West New Guinea, with indications that newly arrived Soviet equipment manned by Soviet crews.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
There were reports also that the recently arrived TU-16s, manned by Soviet crews, would be used in the attack. Mikoyan arrived in Indonesia on 20 July and reportedly stated that the Dutch would be eliminated from New Guinea only by force. An Indonesian general reportedly stated that an attack might require the active participation of Soviet personnel. Both Mikoyan and Vereshin allegedly had urged "a military solution and had offered Soviet "volunteers."

AUGUST 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED]

1 Aug: Ulbricht and Stoph departed for Moscow and remained in the USSR the entire month.

1 Aug: Soviet diplomats in Bonn were hinting broadly to the press that they should not take vacations in August or they would miss an "historic event"; all Polish and Czech correspondents were reportedly ordered to stay in Bonn during August and September.

1 Aug: The Soviet commandant in Berlin went on two months' leave, designating his Chief of Staff as acting commandant.

1 Aug: A top Bulgarian military delegation, headed by the Defense Minister, arrived in Moscow.

[REDACTED]

2 Aug: Kekkonen reportedly stated his visit to the USSR was scheduled for 10-17 October, after Khrushchev's visit to the UN.

[REDACTED]

Early Aug: There were a number of indications of increasing East German security preparations in the Berlin area which suggested possible preparations for the East Germans to assume a more active role in Allied access to Berlin.

8 Aug: The Moscow press announced that the Moscow-Leningrad highway would be closed to traffic 9-13 September between Tverzliuk and Leningrad (about 300 miles or two-thirds of the highway); the Soviets informed the Embassy the reason for closure was "some kind of tests."

8 Aug: The Czech Minister of Defense made an unannounced visit to Moscow of unknown duration.

[REDACTED]

AUGUST 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (2)

9 Aug: Izvestiya carried a statement of East German First Deputy Premier Stoph that a peace treaty could not be postponed "any" longer.

11 Aug: Soviet Navy chief, Admiral Gorshkov, attended the Bulgarian Navy Day celebrations at Varna.

11-15 Aug: The Soviets orbited and recovered their twin cosmonauts Popovich and Nikolaev.

12-23 Aug: Soviet Chief of Staff, Marshal Zakharov, paid a visit to Finland.

13 Aug: The CINC, GSFG, sent a note to General Freeman regarding helicopter flights over East Berlin, stating that the CINCs are the proper channel for dealing with such problems and indicating that the barring of the Soviet Commandant from the US sector of West Berlin was the reason for use of the CINC-level contact.

Mid-Aug: Several blackout and alert exercises were reportedly held in Leningrad; a number of similar exercises reportedly had been held in preceding weeks. Camouflaged underground public shelters were used by the populace.

Mid-Aug: All sources clearly indicated that the Indonesians were poised for an imminent attack on West New Guinea and that Soviet equipment, manned in part by Soviet crews, might be employed in the attack. Only a last-minute agreement with the Dutch, largely negotiated under US auspices, forestalled the assault.

18 Aug: Rumanian leaders were identified back home from vacation in the USSR.

18-21 Aug: Khrushchev returned briefly to Moscow from his extended stay on the Black Sea; departed again on 21 August and returned to Moscow 15 September.

18 Aug: Khrushchev, speaking at the celebration in honor of the Soviet cosmonauts, claimed that the socialist countries had a military superiority over the capitalist world; his last statement on this subject the previous month had claimed only parity, not superiority, with the West.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AUGUST 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (3)

18 Aug: Khrushchev made no reference to a time limit on negotiations on Berlin; in statements at about the same time the Soviet Ambassador to Bonn explicitly stated that no date had been set for signing a peace treaty, and a Soviet diplomat in New York suggested the USSR might take the Berlin problem to the UN.

19 Aug: Khrushchev told the West German Ambassador he probably would arrive in New York the second half of September, but his plans were not definite.

18-28 Aug: According to a Danish report, increased activity by Soviet officers was noted both day and night at the planned GSFG wartime headquarters at Ruedendorf.

21 Aug: The Soviets began transporting their personnel to the War Memorial in West Berlin in armored personnel carriers as a result of indignation in West Berlin over the East German youth allowed to bleed to death on the Wall. The US and UK then began police escort of the Soviet armored vehicles.

21 Aug: Marshal Molinovskiy departed Czechoslovakia after a visit of unknown length, probably for an unannounced visit to East Germany. On 28 August, his plane left Berlin for Moscow. [REDACTED] (Note: Except for the announcement that Molinovskiy was in Czechoslovakia, his whereabouts during the entire month of August were apparently not divulged in the Soviet press. Grechko served as Acting Defense Minister in early August, indicating that Molinovskiy was away.)

22 Aug: The Soviets announced the abolition of the office of Berlin commandant, effective 23 August; East German General Poppe was appointed commandant of the Communist sector of the city.

AUGUST 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (4)

23 Aug: Rumonian Liberation Day ceremonies were attended by Soviet Marshals Chukov (CinC, Ground Forces), Vereshin (CinC, Air Forces) and Bagramyan (Chief of Rear Services), and by East German Defense Minister Hoffmann -- all allegedly "vacationing" in Rumonia.

27 Aug: Gamulka reportedly returned from vacation in the USSR where he was said to have met with Khrushchev and Ulbricht.

28 Aug: TASS announced that Khrushchev and Ulbricht had had a long conversation at Yalta in which "important international questions were discussed."

28 Aug: Khrushchev informed U Thant that he definitely would sign a peace treaty with East Germany but mentioned no date. He claimed he had not yet given thought to attending the UN General Assembly, but said he would not hesitate to come or to meet with President Kennedy if the climate is favorable for such a venture.

29 Aug: The East German Berlin commandant formally assumed command of all security forces in East Berlin in a move which subordinated them to the East German Army.

AUGUST 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (5)

30 Aug: The acting Chief of Staff, GSFG, threatened retaliatory action against Western military access to Berlin if the Western powers did not cease escorting Soviet vehicles to and from the Soviet War Memorial in West Berlin. However, the Soviets shortly later accepted the prohibition against the use of Friedrichstrasse as a crossing point for their convoys to the memorial.

31 Aug: A restricted area was imposed in East Germany for the period to 5 September (see September).

31 Aug: Several reports during July and August indicated that the East Germans would take over old age homes, kindergartens, hospitals, etc. in the 5 kilometer strip along the West German border effective 31 August; one report said there would be a "concentration of manpower" in the strip after 1 September, but there was no subsequent indication that the measure was more than continuing improvement of security measures.

Late Aug: The Czech press announced that the summer Spartacus games of the Bloc armies, which had been scheduled for 1-9 September to involve large groups of soldiers from other Socialist countries, had been cancelled.

Late Aug: Beginning in late August and continuing through late October, an unusual number of Soviet naval ships (at least 13) transited the Turkish Straits en route to foreign navies for transfer.

Aug: There were rumors which could not be substantiated by attaché observations that additional Soviet troops (allegedly up to 18,000) had moved into Poland.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS

1 Sep: Western travelers were reportedly told in Moscow that Kharkov and Rostov-on-Don airports were to be wholly or partially used by the military effective 1 September and that no foreigners would be allowed to land in these cities. (Note: see entry of 30 July for a reason given earlier by the Soviets for a cut-off of travel to Rostov.)

1 Sep: East German units were inspected by members of the Warsaw Pact high command and Ministry of Defense personnel as part of a series of inspections, according to an East German regimental commander who defected 8 September; emphasis was placed on speeding up unit training, particularly in heavy equipment.

2 Sep: Italian travelers observed three westbound trains carrying medium tanks, at least 1,000 Soviet soldiers and 20-30 closed van trucks during a train trip from Warsaw to Brest.

3 Sep: A USMLM vehicle was fired on by a Soviet train guard near Frankfurt/Oder while the MLM team was observing a train apparently carrying missile-associated equipment.

3 Sep: TASS announced that Khrushchev had recently visited Krasnodar Krai (Kuban) during his vacation.

4 Sep: The USSR protested to the US that a U-2 aircraft had violated Soviet territory on 30 August, spending nine minutes over Soviet territory near Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk; the diplomatic note was accompanied by propaganda charging that the flight was provocative and might have serious consequences. Red Star on 6 September criticized the battle readiness of PVO units.

4 Sep: The Soviets discontinued movement of their War Memorial guards through the US sector of West Berlin, switching to the checkpoint at Invalidenstrasse in the British sector.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (2)

2-15 Sep: There was a relative lull in Soviet nuclear testing, with only one test during the period (8 September). It is uncertain whether this is of any significance in relation to the readiness status of Soviet forces. There were other periods of relative lulls in the tests between 27 September and 7 October and 14 and 20 October; no break in testing occurred during late October or early November, although there was another light period after 4 November.

Early
Sep:

Some Czech reservists were reportedly "suddenly" recalled to active duty (information is scant and it is not known whether this was an unusual recall of reservists or routine refresher training).

5 Sep: The Soviets delivered notes to the Western powers concerning Berlin, charging them with various provocations and again calling for the abolition of the occupation of Berlin and withdrawal of Western troops.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (3)

6 Sep: Ambassador Dobrynin told Stevenson in New York that Khrushchev would not attend the UN before mid-November, leaving an impression that no decision had been reached but that Khrushchev might come thereafter.

6 Sep: The commander of the East German 2d Motorized Rifle Regiment defected to the West and reported: East German training was to be accelerated this fall and completed by the end of October (one month earlier than usual); his unit was to participate in a Warsaw Pact maneuver some time between late September and November which he believed would be used to support a blockade of West Berlin; he believed there would be no discharge of personnel in November and that unit strength would be considerably increased by recruits.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (4)

[REDACTED]

8 Sep -
1 Oct: Most of the Soviet High Command attended a reception celebrating Soviet Tank Day the evening of 8 September. From then until 1 October, the following are the only reported appearances:

9 Sep: Sudets (CinC, PVO) attended the armed forces day celebration in Bulgaria. He is otherwise unaccounted for during September.

13-14 Zakharov (Chief of Staff) and Chuikov (CinC, Ground Forces) received the Iraqis and Syrians on their arrival in Moscow.

24-25 Biryuzov (CinC, Strategic Rocket Forces) and Chuikov were at receptions for the Iraqis and Syrians.

Vershinlin (CinC, Air Forces) and Grechko (CinC, Warsaw Pact Forces) apparently were not identified or all during the month of September. The remainder of the High Command who attended the Tank Day celebrations made their next public appearance in October, except as noted above. While it is not unusual for individual members of the High Command to be unaccounted for in the Soviet press for periods of time, there does appear to have been a marked absence of such appearances during September. At least some of them are believed to have attended the exercise in the Far East.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9 Sep: A Chinese Nationalist U-2 was brought down by the Chinese Communists.

[REDACTED]

9-13 Sep: A major portion of the Moscow-Leningrad highway (from Torgzok to Leningrad) was closed to travel, for unknown reasons (see entry of 6 August for Soviet announcement), possibly in connection with military exercises. Observations from the railway 10-11 September showed no traffic on portions of the road which were visible.

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (5)

[REDACTED]

10 Sep: There were rumors from Rumania that the conscript class due for release in October would be held in service until 1 January.

10 Sep: Ulbricht in a television speech declared that an understanding on Berlin was the most important task, warning against delays and stating that a peace treaty will come in any case.

11 Sep: The Soviet Government statement on Cuba, released by TASS, stated that the USSR would not follow the lead of the US in calling up reservists, but had in fact just ordered the release of servicemen who had completed their term of service. "This alone is a clear enough indication of our peaceful intentions. No government would take such a measure if it contemplated any action of a military nature." However, in view of US threats, the Soviet Union "must do everything to be prepared, to see to it that our armed forces --the strategic rocket forces and the ground forces, the anti-aircraft defense, the navy and particularly the submarine fleet -- are able to cope with their tasks. If the aggressor unleashes war, our armed forces must be ready to strike a crushing retaliatory blow against the aggressor.... The Soviet Government considers it its duty to be vigilant in this situation and to instruct the Minister of Defense of the USSR and the command of the Soviet Army to take all measures to bring our armed forces to the highest combat readiness." These, however, "are exclusively precautionary measures." In a concluding section, the statement indicated that "a pause" had been reached in talks on a German peace treaty, and that the Soviet Government was prepared to reckon with the fact that it was difficult for the US to negotiate on the German treaty now since elections are due in November. (See Cuban section for portions of this statement dealing with Cuba.)

11 Sep: Khrushchev, in a conversation with Ambassador Kroll of West Germany, indicated he would proceed with the German peace treaty shortly after the US elections; the terms would make continuation of Western occupation of Berlin quite impossible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (9)

12-13
Sep:

There were some signs of increased vigilance related to the Berlin situation, including appearance of a Soviet soldier on top of the Brandenburg gate, reconnaissance of the sector/zonal border by four or five helicopters, an alleged direction of EGA soldiers to assembly areas, and an apparent "air of expectancy" on the part of the Soviets as if they expected "something to happen"; these were attributed to the controversy over Soviet use of armored personnel carriers to transport War Memorial guards in West Berlin.

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (10)

13 Sep: An East German defector reported that effective 13 September leaves were reduced to 15 percent and passes to 10 percent because of the Cuban and Berlin situations. However, this is believed to be normal during the fall maneuver period.

Sep. All employees and workers at East German rail station northwest of Berlin were reportedly compelled to sign a "secretly oath" with regard to military transports during September; whether this was a routine security move or related to same special military movements during September is not known.

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (II)

13 Sep: Red Star carried interviews with "indignant civilians" and reports of "hands-off-Cuba" meetings in the armed forces, said to have been held in GSFG, SGF, the Baltic Fleet and the Odessa Higher Combined-Arms Command School.

13 Sep: The USSR announced that its delegation to the UN General Assembly, opening in New York on 18 September, would be led by Foreign Minister Gromyko.

14 Sep: A Red Star editorial stated the Soviet armed forces "now more than ever before must be equal to their tasks." The "highest combat readiness" means the highest level of organization, precise execution of orders and instructions, and faultless discipline. "The mighty and awesome Soviet armed forces....are always ready to execute any command of the motherland and destroy any aggressor." The article claimed Soviet possession of nuclear weapons "in adequate quantity and quality" and first-class equipment of every type. The issue carried more protest meetings from the Soviet armed forces and more material on alleged US "aggressive policy" toward Cuba.

14 Sep: The Soviets changed back from armored personnel carriers to busses to transport their personnel to the War Memorial in West Berlin, in an apparent move to ease

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (12)

14-Sep Various reports and Soviet "Berlin to Bloc" plans to resume moves toward a Berlin settlement in November.

15-Sep Khrushchev returned to Moscow from the Black Sea

15-25 East German troops were extensively engaged in harvest activity.

16 Sep A page one story in Red Star described preparations in missile forces until prior to going on combat duty, tying these to "US provocations against Cuba" and the highest combat readiness. A joint Soviet-Cuban meeting was held in Odessa, according to a Pravda item of the following day.

17 Sep Khrushchev took a belligerent line in talks with the Austrian Vice Chancellor, stating that the USSR would use submarines and rockets to enforce its right of passage to Cuba and hinting that US intervention in Cuba would spark Soviet reaction in Berlin. He indicated he was still thinking of going to New York in the second half of November and would hope to see the President. If there were no results from these contacts, the Soviets would proceed with the peace

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (13)

17 Sep: (Cont'd) treaty. There would be no blockade of Berlin but also no access to maintain Western troops there. He expressed confidence there would be no war unless it were triggered by crazy, hot-headed action.

17 Sep: A USSR declaration reiterated the position that Western occupation of West Berlin has no legal basis and that recent developments show the "necessity for immediately abolishing the NATO military base in West Berlin."

18 Sep: Khrushchev held an interview with former Belgian Economics Minister Scheyven (not published until 21 October) in which Khrushchev said he would bring the German question up at the UN and made reference to a separate peace treaty under which Soviet forces would be introduced into Berlin.

19 Sep: A source transiting Leninakan en route to Moscow reportedly saw soldiers digging trenches near the rail line. On the trip, the source observed no apparent marshalling of rolling stock, increased guards on bridges or railroads or any other unusual military or civil defense activity.

19 Sep: A Red Star editorial in honor of the anniversary of the October revolution noted the efforts of the armed forces "to storm the heights of military skills" and stated that they must be brought to the highest state of combat readiness in the light of the world situation and US plans for aggression against Cuba. "This compels Soviet military personnel to be on the alert every second." The Soviet press also carried articles stating that the general course of US policy was directed toward the unleashing of a rocket-nuclear war against the socialist countries and describing US aggression against Cuba as a violation of International law which "can lead to catastrophic consequences."

19 Sep: Ulbricht endorsed the Soviet declaration that negotiations on Berlin could wait until after the US Congressional elections, expressing hope that the West would take steps during the "pause" to create a favorable atmosphere for negotiations. The speech concluded Ulbricht's visit to Rumania; a joint communique was delivered largely to Berlin and Germany.

* * *

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (16)

c 24-27 Sep: A Warsaw Pact exercise was conducted in western Czechoslovakia [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It culminated with a parade in Karlovy Vary. The
exercise was announced by the Czechs on 30 September.

[REDACTED]

25 Sep: A Soviet lecturer at a public forum in Moscow emphasized that the USSR was
making every effort to achieve a peaceful solution of the Berlin problem, but
Khrushchev cannot wait much longer. A peace treaty is ready and can be
signed within minutes but a negotiated settlement is preferable. He then frankly
described the horrors of nuclear war, warning that events in Berlin could spark
such a conflict; the Soviets would win but only at a terrible cost.

25 Sep: Red Star carried a report from the North Caucasus Military District concerning
"intensive night flights," some of them of long-range. Over 2,000 letters were
said to have been received during one week testifying to the efforts of military
personnel to bring their units to the highest state of combat readiness.

[REDACTED]

25-26 Sep: Soviet fighters harassed a USAF C-47, an Air France Caravelle, and a Pan
American clipper in the Berlin corridors with close passes; this followed a period
of relatively few air incidents.

26 Sep: Khrushchev arrived in Ashkhabad, Turkestan, on the start of a tour of Central
Asia.

27 Sep: Red Star carried an editorial on "training alert" which stressed the importance
of efficiently conducted training alerts "to every unit and ship of the Soviet
armed forces" as a means of developing their ability to mount instantaneous
action. An article described the high state of training and vigilance of a tank
unit of SGF.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEPTEMBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (17)

28 Sep: A Red Star editorial described the gunnery of naval rocket carriers which stated that Soviet sailors must "be ready at the first signal to put to sea and deliver a crushing blow against an aggressor."

28 Sep: Pravda carried another statement warning that the USSR and its allies would have no option but to conclude a peace treaty with East Germany if the Western powers are not responsive to Soviet proposals.

[REDACTED]

29 Sep: Red Star carried an article titled, "We Are With You, Cuba," consisting of a review of the numerous letters being received by the editors expressing the "readiness of our people and the soldiers of the Soviet armed forces to render the necessary aid to Cuba at any minute."

30 Sep: Neues Deutschland carried an editorial on the "pause" in Berlin negotiations, quoting Ulbricht's statement that a "peace treaty is coming in any case" and stating that the Western powers would be "smart" to accelerate the pace of conversations on Berlin. The East Germans will use the remaining time to strengthen East Germany, "for we know that the outcome of negotiations cannot differ fundamentally from power relationships."

Late Sep: According to a third-hand report said to have originated with employees of electronics and aircraft plants in Leningrad, these plants were operating on a wartime production alert in late September and the atmosphere at the plants was one of impending war. An "increase in international tension" was given as the official explanation for the alert status and all employees were said to have been impressed with the need to make an all-out effort.

[REDACTED]

Late Sep: According to an East German Border Command defector, releases were officially postponed from late September to some time in November.

1-14 OCTOBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS

2 Oct: Red Star continued the publication of letters from its readers on the readiness of units and ships in light of the world situation, with an introduction claiming that the US had created a situation in which some incident could "develop into the catastrophe of world thermonuclear war." It reiterated that everything was being done to fulfill the government's requirement that the armed forces be brought to the highest state of combat readiness. An alleged letter said that personnel of an interception unit were always on the alert and ready and that "weapons must always be ready for battle, and doubly so in these days."

2 Oct: A Yugoslav official reported he was "about 95 percent sure" that Krushchev would attend the UN General Assembly in about three weeks.

3 and 4 Oct: TASS carried warnings concerning Soviet military retaliatory capabilities in case the US should resort to war over a German peace treaty. Two Soviet officials at the UN indicated on 3 October that the Berlin problem would be solved one way or another by the end of the year.

3 Oct: The newly arrived Soviet Ambassador in the Congo reportedly offered military assistance against Katanga if the UN plan failed and the UN was removed from the Congo.

3-5 Oct: The East German Party Central Committee held a plenum and announced that the Party Congress would be held in January.

3-5 Oct: The East German railways reportedly conducted a communications exercise or CPX involving mobilization procedures (West German report).

4 Oct: Soviet President Brezhnev concluded a ten-day visit to Yugoslavia and a communiqué was issued asserting an identity of views on international questions.

A Warsaw Pact exercise was conducted in northwest Poland

The exercise was announced on 10 October as having closed with a parade in Szczecin 9 October. The exercise was attended by Marshal Grechko (CinC of the Warsaw Pact Forces), the CinC of GSFG and most Satellite Defense Ministers.

Early Oct: A Soviet newspaper in the Kirgiz Republic contained the first noted press reference to civil defense drills being organized and implemented in that part of the Soviet Union.

5 Oct: Red Star carried a lengthy discussion by officers of the Main Staff of the Ground Forces concerning the combat readiness of troops under modern conditions and readiness doctrine in light of the Cuban situation. It stated, among other things, that the underestimation of the timely placement of armed forces in inappropriate combat readiness in the face of a military threat had often been a reason for defeat of particular countries, that the Soviet reverses at the start of the German invasion in 1941 could have been substantially reduced had the troops been deployed in time and prepared to repel the German attack, and that today all branches of the armed forces, and particularly the Strategic Rocket Troops, are required to maintain high combat readiness. It defined "highest combat readiness" as "that state in which troops are able at any moment to repel successfully a surprise nuclear attack of an aggressor and, at the first signal, to undertake resolute combat operations aimed at the complete destruction of the enemy." (See appendix)

5 Oct: Red Star carried an editorial on the alert status for PVO rocket troops, referred to as "combat duty."

6-8 Oct: Soviet reconnaissance aircraft showed great interest in the movements of the US carrier Kitty Hawk to Japan from Hawaii.

7 Oct: On the anniversary of the East German regime and ending of the SED plenum, both Khrushchev and Ulbricht reiterated their desire to settle the Berlin problem through negotiations and to resort to a unilateral solution only if agreement proves impossible. Another report was received that Khrushchev intended to be in New York, this time on 20 November.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1-14 OCTOBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS (3)

8 Oct: An East German military delegation, headed by Defense Minister Hoffmann, arrived in the USSR for a ten-day visit and was met by Malinovskiy and later by Khrushchev. It was the first official German military visit to the USSR since World War II. Kozlov stated that its experience in the Soviet Union would help in augmenting the protection afforded by the Berlin Wall.

9 Oct: A high-level Soviet Party delegation, headed by Demichev, arrived in East Germany, remaining until 21 October.

10 Oct: Khrushchev returned to Moscow from an extended tour of Central Asia.

[REDACTED]

10 Oct: A Soviet truck convoy was reportedly observed east of Berlin carrying vehicle registration numbers of the Corporation Military District (the validity of this observation was never established).

10 Oct: Red Star reported a test of combat readiness of rocketeers; in accordance with the "well-known TASS announcement," every soldier and officer was said to be morally prepared for the execution of any mission--"this is the highest combat readiness in action."

10 Oct: Gromyko in New York reviewed the standard Soviet line on Berlin to Secretary Rusk, stating that the USSR would deeply regret having to act without the US and its allies.

[REDACTED]

11 Oct: Soviet BISONs and TU-16s conducted heavy reconnaissance of the US carrier Midway in the Far East.

[REDACTED]

15-21 OCTOBER 1962: SOVIET BLOC DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED]

15 Oct: Khrushchev told Kekkonen that, while he had expected the US to attack Cuba in late August or early September, he now believed that the US would not take direct action. He said he was bound to no timetable on Berlin and did not believe that the West would start a nuclear war over Berlin.

15 Oct: The USSR announced that there would be extended rocket firings into the Pacific during the period 16 October to 30 November. The first extended test was made on 16 October.

15 Oct: A high-level Polish political delegation, headed by Gomulka, arrived in East Germany for a four-day visit which concluded with a communique stressing the urgent need for a German peace treaty.

16 Oct: Khrushchev, in an interview with Ambassador Kohler, reaffirmed the Soviet intent to take no action on Berlin prior to the US elections; he mentioned the possibility of visiting the UN in late November or early December but did not commit himself.

16 Oct: An All-Army Conference on Ideological Questions opened in Moscow and was addressed some time during the session (which apparently concluded 25 October) by Marshal Malinovskiy.

16 Oct: Red Star again charged the US with undertaking dangerous provocations directed at unleashing a thermonuclear world war and stated, "Our answer to these provocations is obvious and clear: the highest combat readiness!" An article warned that "people who rely on force usually respect and understand the fact that other people may respond to force by force."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

18 Oct: It was noted again (by EUCOM) that there had been an extended period of relative inactivity in GSFG since conclusion of the maneuver in the temporary restricted area on 5 September, with training largely confined to low-level activity near home stations. GSFG-controlled "shadow" nets believed associated with exercise facilities had appeared.

18 Oct: An unconfirmed SHAPE report stated that shuttle trains arriving in East Germany beginning 18 October were filled and those returning were empty. (A later report as of 12 November said that three-fourths of the returning trains were empty resulting in an apparent troop increase in GSFG.)

18 Oct: Bucharest announced the termination of Warsaw Pact exercises in Rumania and the attendance of Marshal Grechko and others (see previous items).

c 18 Oct: Polish professors and students reportedly received orders to return home from Sweden.

18-22 Oct: A Soviet naval detachment visited the East German port of Rostok; it was headed by the Commander of the Baltic Fleet and received by Ulbricht 19 October.

19 Oct: Izvestiya introduced a new section called "Military Review," to be written by leading Soviet military commanders and specialists. Marshal of Armored Troops Rotmistrov led off with an article stating that the tank units were in "the state of high combat readiness." Red Star carried an article entitled "Washington in the Fog of War Psychosis," which said that Washington is acting as though it is in a state of war against Cuba and that the times are gone "when imperialist sharks may go unpunished after seizing and swallowing other countries."

19 Oct: Gomulka told the East German parliament that a peace treaty with East Germany would be concluded in the very near future. There were hints in the Soviet press that Moscow might be preparing to demand the sealing of both Germany's in the UN; Pravda omitted Ulbricht's reference to continuing US-Soviet discussions after the US elections.

19 Oct: Khrushchev conferred with the East German military delegation visiting Moscow; Malinovskiy was also present.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 Oct: Kozlov informed US Ambassador Kohler that Berlin was a relatively minor problem which would disappear if a disarmament resolution could be obtained and that focus should be placed on the latter.

20-21 Oct: The press reported that Soviet troops moved into a permanent observation post near Bernauerstrasse in the northern part of Berlin, a move occasionally employed by the USSR at times of expected border tension.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 Oct 62 - 2

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - USSR

[REDACTED]

Moscow requested assurance of beacons for several Arctic airfields.

USAREUR reported the recent completion of a second GSFG tactical pipeline to Allstedt (southwestern East Germany).

The West German press reported that Soviet soldiers had been sighted at four locations along the Berlin Wall.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 Oct 62 - 5

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - USSR (3)

According to a West German report, beginning 23-24 October, elements of four GSF G divisions were observed out of garrison with all movements westward; according to NORTHAG, small groups of Soviet troops were stationed in camps at a number of points along the zonal border (dates of actual movement not given).

[REDACTED]

23 Oct 62 - 7

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - CZECHOSLOVAKIA (2)

for immediate use and guards increased on installations; management staffs were put on extra shifts. These measures were rescinded at small industrial establishments on 1 November but were still in effect as of 3 November at large plants.

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - SATELLITES (Other than Czechoslovakia)

Traveler observations in the Erfurt/Eisenach area suggested possible implementation of an alert plan in the East German 4th Motorized Rifle Division with troops reported in the field and an EGA unit from Sonderhausen reported to have departed for field duty. The East German border command Erfurt/Eisenach area was possibly on an alert. (Note: most reports of East German alert measures are for 24 October - q.v.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24 Oct 62 - 3

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - USSR

Red Star carried an article from the Baku PVO District of 23 October stating that all personnel were at their combat posts and the rocketeers were "in the highest state of combat readiness"; an editorial said that the Soviet Government was "taking all necessary measures to ensure that it will not be taken by surprise" and that Soviet soldiers would double their vigilance and combat readiness.

The initial indications of preparations to activate alternate or dispersal airfields were noted in East Germany with the movement of Soviet trucks to Schleissheim airfield on the night of 24-25 October (this was followed by similar activity at several other fields in East Germany).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24 Oct 62 - 4

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - USSR (2)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Observations suggested that GSFG and East German Army elements were returning to home stations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24 Oct 62 - 5

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - EAST GERMANY

An East German Border Command defector stated his unit was placed on pre-alert at 240800 October, followed by higher combat readiness (Erhohte Kampfbereitschaft) at 241500Z. Under this, all personnel were restricted, interior guard was ordered to return to home stations, line companies resumed patrolling, men were recalled from leave, discharges were suspended until further notice, border obstacle construction was suspended. No additional men, weapons or equipment were received, and no combat gas mask filters were issued.

A covert report states that the EGA and People's Police were placed on the highest state of alert readiness (Haechste Alarmbereitschaft), but this is not confirmed. A French report of unknown reliability stated the EGA went on state of Alert Number 3 at 0001, 24 October.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25 Oct 62 - 5

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - USSR (3)

The Western Military Liaison Missions were denied travel 25 October - 4 November from two areas near the East-West German border in proximity to the autobahns and air corridors, no significant military activity was detected in the area during the restriction.

BLOC MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS - SATELLITES

[REDACTED]

Heavy tracked vehicle movement was reported through Eisenach in the early morning, possibly indicating some local border alert exercise.

Elements of the East German 2d Motorized Rifle Regiment were observed preparing to leave home stations at Staahnsdorf; approximately one-half to two-thirds of the vehicles were apparently absent from the installation of the 23d Motorized Rifle Regiment at Sandeshausen.

[REDACTED]

Observations in Czechoslovakia showed the Kolin tank and vehicle park which was full on 21 October to be empty on 25 October while additional equipment was seen at Stribo (and continuing thereafter), suggesting some shift in dispositions for alert purposes. Generally, Czech garrisons throughout the alert showed most troops at home stations with a minimum of activity on roads and some evidence that vehicles were loaded for movement. A traveler, who reported that a Czech officer stated that the Czech Army was on an alert, also reported heavy military traffic between Prague and Eger 25-26 October (the latter point is on the West German border).

[REDACTED]

Attache observations in Bulgaria 25 October and continuing through the crisis showed generally that troops were in barracks areas, road traffic was very light, but more than the usual number of ambulances were on the roads; there were few additional security measures, and aircraft apparently were not dispersed. Some Bulgarian troops recently released from duty and some specialists from the reserves were reportedly called up during the week of 22 October.

[REDACTED]